

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A lipid composition, comprising an interesterified structured lipid component and a phytosterol ester component:

said structured lipid component is a reaction product of an interesterification reactant charge in the presence of an interesterification catalyst, said reactant charge having between about 15 and about 75 weight percent, based upon the total weight of the charge, of a medium chain triglyceride having one glycerol component with fatty acid moiety chains that are from C6 to C12 in length, reacted with between about 15 and about 85 weight percent, based upon the total weight of the charge, of a long chain domestic oil having another glycerol component with fatty acid moiety chains of at least C16 in length, said structured lipid component being an interesterified randomization product wherein fatty acid moiety chains from said one glycerol component are exchanged with fatty acid moiety chains from said other glycerol component, resulting in triglycerol structures which have interexchanged fatty acid moiety chains that vary randomly from glycerol structure to glycerol structure; and

said interesterified structured lipid component comprises at least about 80 weight percent of the lipid composition, and said phytosterol ester component comprises between about 4 and about 20 weight percent of the lipid composition, both based on the total weight of the lipid composition.

2. (currently amended) ~~A composition for decreasing atherogenic risk in individuals, comprising the lipid~~ The composition of claim 1, and said lipid composition, when ingested by a hypercholesterolemic individual at a level of at least about 0.4 grams of the composition per kilogram of body weight of the individual for at least about six weeks, reduces the LDL cholesterol level of said individual by at least ~~about~~ 10 ~~about 8~~ percent.

3. (currently amended) The composition in accordance with claim 2, wherein said ~~lipid~~ composition reduces the total cholesterol level of said individual by at least ~~about 8~~ about 10 percent.

4. (currently amended) The composition in accordance with claim 2, wherein said ~~lipid~~ composition does not significantly reduce the HDL cholesterol level of said individual.

5. (currently amended) The composition in accordance with claim 2, wherein said ~~lipid~~ composition reduces adipose mass of said individual.

6. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said structured lipid component comprises at least about 88 weight percent of the composition, and said phytosterol ester component comprises up to about 12 weight percent of the composition, both based upon the total weight of the composition.

7. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said structured lipid component comprises at least about 90 weight percent of the composition, and said phytosterol ester comprises up to about 10 weight percent of the composition, both based upon the total weight of the composition.

8. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said structured lipid component comprises at least about 92 weight percent of the composition and said phytosterol ester comprises up to about 8 weight percent of the composition, both based upon the total weight of the composition.

9. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said medium chain triglyceride amount is between about 30 and about 60 weight percent of the interesterification charge, and the amount of the domestic oil is between about 40 and about 70 weight percent of the charge.

10. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said medium chain triglyceride amount is between about 35 and about 55 weight percent of the interesterification charge, and the amount of the domestic oil is between about 45 and about 65 weight percent of the charge.

11. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said structured lipid component has a Brookfield viscosity of between about 20 and about 52

centipoise, measured at 20°C with a No. 4 spindle at 50 rpm on a Brookfield Viscometer.

12. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said structured lipid component has a smoke point of at least about 195°C (at least about 383°F).

13. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said structured lipid component has a smoke point of at least about 205°C (at least about 400°F).

14. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said phytosterol ester component has no greater than about 20% by weight, based upon the total weight of the phytosterol ester component, of a phytostanol.

15. (currently amended) The composition in accordance with claim 2, wherein said ~~lipid~~ composition is administered to the individual at a level of between about 0.4 grams and about 2 grams of said composition per kilogram of body weight per day for at least about 6 weeks.

16. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said lipid composition is a clear liquid and remains a clear liquid for at least about six months of storage at about 21°C.

17. (currently amended) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said lipid composition has sensory attributes which are not significantly different from, or are significantly

superior to, corresponding sensory properties of canola oil and/or of olive oil when used in food and when evaluated by a trained sensory panel.

18. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said medium chain triglyceride is selected from the group consisting of caprylic triglyceride, capric triglyceride, and combinations thereof, wherein said domestic oil is selected from the group consisting of soybean oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, canola oil, olive oil, peanut oil, safflower oil, sunflower oil, oil from grain plants, and combinations thereof.

19. (currently amended) A method for making a lipid composition for reducing atherogenic risk in individuals, comprising:

providing a medium chain triglyceride having one glycerol component with fatty acid moiety chains that have carbon chain lengths of between C6 and C12;

providing domestic oil having another glycerol component with fatty acid moiety chains that have carbon chain lengths of between C16 and C22;

introducing a reactant charge to a reaction location, the reactant charge including between about 15 and about 85 weight percent of the medium chain triglyceride and between about 15 and about 85 weight percent of said domestic oil, based upon the total weight of the reactant charge;

interesterifying said reactant charge in the presence of an interesterification catalyst into an interesterified structured lipid randomization product wherein fatty acid moiety chains

from said one glycerol component are exchanged with fatty acid moiety chains from said another glycerol component, resulting in triglycerol structures which have interexchanged fatty acid moiety chains that vary randomly from glycerol structure to glycerol structure; and

combining said interesterified structured lipid component with a phytosterol ester component to provide a lipid composition ~~which is consumable by an individual and which reduces atherogenic risk for said individual~~, said combining being such that said the lipid composition contains at least about 80 weight percent of the structured lipid component and up to about 20 weight percent of the phytosterol ester component, based on the total weight of the lipid composition.

20. (original) The method in accordance with claim 19, wherein said lipid composition has a Brookfield viscosity of between about 20 and about 52 centipoise, measured at 20° with a No. 4 spindle at 50 rpm on a Brookfield Viscometer.

21. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 19, wherein said lipid composition has a smoke point of at least about 195°C (at least about 383°F).

22. (currently amended) A method for using the lipid composition of claim 1, comprising ~~decreasing the atherogenic risk in an individual by administering the lipid composition to~~ an individual in order to promote the health and nutrition of said individual, including decreasing the atherogenic risk to the individual by reducing adipose mass of said individual.

23. (currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 22, wherein said individual is hypercholesterolemic and said administering at a level of at least about 0.4 grams of the composition per kilogram of body weight of the individual for at least about six weeks reduces the LDL cholesterol of said individual by at least about 10 percent.

24. (currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 22, wherein said individual is hypercholesteroliemic and said administering at a level of at least about 0.4 grams of the composition per kilogram of body weight of the individual for at least about six weeks reduces the total cholesterol of said individual by at least about 8 percent.

25. (currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 22, wherein said administering at a level of at least about 0.4 grams of the composition per kilogram of body weight of the individual for at least about six weeks does not significantly reduce the HDL cholesterol level of said individual.

26. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 22, wherein said administering is at a level of at least about 0.4 grams of said lipid composition per kilogram of body weight of said individual.

27. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 22, wherein said administering is at a level of between about 0.4 and about 2 grams of said lipid composition per kilogram of body weight of said individual.

28. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 22, wherein said administering is at a level of between about 0.6 and about 1 gram of said lipid composition per kilogram of body weight of said individual.

29. (currently amended) ~~A composition for decreasing atherogenic risk in individuals, comprising the lipid~~ The composition of claim 1, and ~~said lipid composition~~, when ingested by a hypercholesterolemic individual at a level of at least about 0.4 grams of the composition per kilogram of body weight of the individual for at least about six weeks, reduces the LDL cholesterol level of said individual by at least about 15 percent.

30. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 2, wherein said lipid composition reduces the total cholesterol level of said individual by at least about 12 percent.

31. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 3, wherein said lipid composition does not significantly reduce the HDL cholesterol level of said individual.

32. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 3, wherein said lipid composition reduces adipose mass of said individual.

33. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 4, wherein said lipid composition reduces adipose mass of said individual.

34. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 2, wherein said structured lipid component comprises at least about 90 weight percent of the composition, and said phytosterol ester comprises up to about 10 weight percent of the composition, both based upon the total weight of the composition.

35. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 2, wherein said structured lipid component has a Brookfield viscosity of between about 20 and about 52 centipoise, measured at 20°C with a No. 4 spindle at 50 rpm on a Brookfield Viscometer.

36. (previously presented) The composition in accordance with claim 2, wherein said structured lipid component has a smoke point of at least about 195°C (at least about 383°F).

37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended) The composition in accordance with claim 2, wherein said lipid composition has sensory attributes which are not significantly different from, or are significantly superior to, corresponding sensory properties of canola oil and/or of olive oil when used in food and when evaluated by a trained sensory panel.

39. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 20, wherein said lipid composition has a smoke point of at least about 195°C (at least about 383°F).